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REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1 has been revised. Support for the revisions in claim 1 can be found at, e.g., page 9, line 20 to page 12, line 21 of the specification, among other places. Claims 2 and 13 have been revised to avoid any potential inconsistency with independent claim 1. Claims 17 and 18 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1-16 remain pending in the application.

Information Disclosure Statement

Examiner indicated that Japanese Publication Nos. 2002-168821, 2001-159618 and 10-38875 were not being considered because they were not properly supplied for consideration.

However, PAIR records indicate that these references were submitted in the IDS filed on March 25, 2005. An English counterpart or abstract also was provided. Specifically, US Publication Nos. 2004-0016642 and 2003-0159945 correspond to Japanese Publication Nos. 2002-168821 and 2001-159618, respectively. An English abstract was supplied for Japanese Publication No. 10-38875.

As the Information Disclosure Statement submitted March 25, 2005 meets the requirements established under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, Applicants respectfully request consideration of these references.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 1, 3-4, 6-10 and 13-18 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Derand et al. (US Publication No. 2002/0125135) in view of Harauchi et al. (JP Publication No. 2001-294692). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. The rejection of claims 17 and 18 is moot in view of the cancellation of those claims. Applicants are not conceding the correctness of the rejection for claims 17 and 18.

Claim 1 requires hydrophilically treating a cover before the cover is bonded to a substrate, including ultraviolet radiation or application of a surface-active agent to the cover. Claim 1 further requires hydrophilically treating an inner surface of a groove of

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the substrate, including a primary modifying step by bringing a modifying gas into contact with the inner surface of the groove, and a secondary modifying step. That is, the present cover and substrate are hydrophilized with different hydrophilization treatments before the cover is bonded to the substrate.

The rejection relies on Harauchi et al.'s teaching of hydrophilic treatment. However, Harauchi et al. fail to teach or suggest 1) hydrophilically treating a cover before the cover is bonded to a substrate, including ultraviolet radiation or application of a surface-active agent to the cover and 2) hydrophilically treating an inner surface of a groove of the substrate, including a primary modifying step by bringing a modifying gas into contact with the inner surface of the groove, and a secondary modifying step, as required by claim 1. That is, Harauchi et al. fail to teach or suggest hydrophilically treating a cover and a substrate using different hydrophilization treatments before the cover is bonded to the substrate. Instead, Harauchi et al. merely discuss treating a hydrophobic article with fluorine gas to obtain a hydrophilic surface as well as a contact angle with water (see Harauchi et al., Abstract and paragraphs [0002]-[0006]. Derand et al. do not remedy the deficiencies of Harauchi et al.

For at least these reasons, claim 1 is patentable over Derand et al. in view of Harauchi. Claims 3-4, 6-10 and 13-18 depend ultimately from claim 1 and are patentable along with claim 1 and need not be separately distinguished at this time. Applicants are not conceding the relevance of the rejection to the remaining features of the rejected claims.

Claims 2, 5, 8 and 11-12 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Derand et al. in view of Harauchi et al. and further in view of Hruska et al. (Hruska et al., *Ageing of the Oxyfluorinated Polypropylene Surface*, J. FLUORINE CHEM. 105, pp. 87-93 (2000)). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Claims 2, 5, 8 and 11-12 depend ultimately from claim 1 and are patentable along with claim 1 and need not be separately distinguished at this time. Hruska et al. do not remedy the deficiencies of Derand et al. and Harauchi et al. Applicants are not conceding the relevance of the rejection to the remaining features of the rejected claims.

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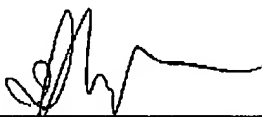
In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. Any questions regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, Douglas P. Mueller, Reg. No. 30,300, at (612) 455-3804.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: May 19, 2009

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DPM/cy